

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

executing boot-time code stored in a non-volatile store embedded within a peripheral device, wherein executing the boot-time code includes actions of:

reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and

in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a scratchpad register in a configuration space of the peripheral device.

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

executing device driver code associated with the particular device driver, wherein executing the device driver code includes actions of:

determining whether the signature has been written to the configuration space; and

in response to a determination that the signature has been written to the configuration space, enabling the device driver.

Claims 6-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

 a first tangible computer-readable storage medium containing first functional descriptive material that, when executed by a computer, directs the computer to perform actions that include:

 reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

 determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and

 in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a scratchpad register in a configuration space of the peripheral device.

Claim 13 (original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 14 (original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 15 (original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the first computer-readable medium is a non-volatile store associated with the peripheral device.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

 a second tangible computer-readable storage medium containing second functional descriptive material associated with a device driver, wherein the computer's executing the second functional descriptive material directs the computer to perform actions that include:

 determining whether the signature has been written to the configuration space; and

 in response to a determination that the signature has been written to the configuration space, enabling the device driver.

Claims 17-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended) A peripheral device comprising:

 at least one non-volatile store;

 an interface adapted to provide connectivity between the at least one non-volatile store and a computer system; and

 a set of instructions within the at least one non-volatile store, wherein the set of instructions are adapted to be executed by the computer system so as to direct the computer system to perform actions that include:

 reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

 determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and

 in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a scratchpad register in a configuration space of the peripheral device.

Claim 24 (original) The peripheral device of claim 23, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 25 (original) The peripheral device of claim 24, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (currently amended) A data processing system comprising:

- at least one processor;
- at least one memory;
- a peripheral device having a non-volatile store;
- a first set of instructions in the non-volatile store, wherein the at least one processor executes the first set of instructions to perform actions of:
 - reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;
 - determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and
 - in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a scratchpad register in a configuration space of the peripheral device.
- a second set of instructions in the at least one memory, wherein the at least one processor executes the second set of instructions to perform actions of:
 - determining whether the signature has been written to the configuration space; and
 - in response to a determination that the signature has been written to the configuration space, enabling the device driver.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (original) The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 30 (original) The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 31 (canceled)